ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have received quite a large number of motions for adjournment of the business of the House. Many of them raise points which may very well be made during the general discussion of the Budget commencing from to-morrow. If I were to take the sense of the House and if on account of the urgency of the matter I were to allow 9, 8 or 5 of these motions for adjournment, it would be a serious curtailment of the hours of the days allotted both for the general discussion of the Budget and voting on demands. I shall deal with these motions for adjournment very briefly and then appeal to honourable members whether thereafter they would desire to move the motions according to the time honoured procedure of adjournment motions or they will rely upon the assurance of the Chair that those persons who consider that these matters are important and should be discussed and disposed of will be called upon fairly early enough in the general discussion so that they may put forward their point of view with regard to these matters. In so far as many of these motions deal with financial aspects, it will be readily conceded that no action can be taken just now. There are other motions of policy involved for which the general discussion period is an excellent opportunity for putting forward one's views and getting a response from the head of the department concerned. I shall, therefore, after dealing with these motions abide by the decision of the House and the members concerned.

The first motion is from Mr. Kannanthodath Janardanan Nair—"I move that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the scarcity of the supply and distribution of rice at Quilon and its suburbs". This matter has been enquired into and full particulars will be given, when necessary, which will disclose that the fault is entirely that of the merchants. At one time the merchants came to Government and represented that transport facilities were not available and that the railway company would not bring the rice to Quilon although agreements had been made and contracts entered into. But now we find that the railway company is ready with the wagons but there are no applications for transport made by merchants. If the merchants have disappointed the public, the question is what steps should be taken against such merchants. That is a matter, for instance, in which the fullest explanation could be given in the course of the general discussion.

The next motion is from Mr. Kottalil P. Abraham—"——the serious situation that arises on account of the numerous deaths occurring on the Munnar-Kothamangalam road, of malaria-stricken coolies while walking back to their distant homes during the rains from the cardamom estates and other places of their work in Kallar, Kundale and other neighbouring mountainous regions". Whether the death is due to malaria and starvation or malaria alone or neglect on the part of the persons is a matter which will have to be understood and it can be dealt with during the general debate

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Another motion is from Mr. P. Kunjukrishnan—"——the hardship and suffering experienced by the public of Quilon and surrounding places as a consequence of the sudden stoppage of rice supply in Quilon recently." The same observation applies to this motion also.

Then another motion is from Mr. K. R. Narayanan—"——the serious situation arising from the extreme scarcity of kerosene oil in the various markets of the State." It is not the various markets of the State, but the markets of India and of the world. As I said already it may be necessary to carry on without kerosene at all. But I may say very definitely for the information of the members of the House that the various oil companies have been most anxious to help this Government. We have received a definite assurance from all the Oil Companies that a hundred per cent supply of crude oil necessary for the punja cultivation will be made and that there will be no diminution in the quantity of oil supplied. As for kerosene they themselves are powerless. But the Government are doing their best to overcome the present difficult circumstances. Further details, if necessary, will be given during the general discussion.

Then there is a motion from Mr. M. R. Narayana Pillay "——the serious situation created by the large scale export of tapioca from Travancore and the unprecedented rise in the price, and the abnormal scarcity of supply, of this food of the poor man in Travancore, particularly in view of the difficulties in the supply of rice."

This is a matter which I can dispose of immediately. This Government is not willing to prevent the people of Travancore making money when they can. The cultivators of tapioca of Travancore until the other day could not sell their tapioca. They did not know what to do with it. During recent years there is a great demand for tapioca and I would have exported all the tapioca if I had a market outside so that I can get enough money to buy other foodproduce. Therefore far from stopping the export of tapioca and disabling our own people from making some money at the present time, I would take the other line. But there is very little danger of it because a large amount of tapioca is being consumed here. I may add that steps are being taken to establish a big factory for producing tapioca starch here. I hope the poor agriculturists of Travancore will get a boom price for tapioca as in the case of pepper and ginger. I think any restriction on the export of tapioca will be to the disadvantage of the State.

The motion that of Mr. G. Velu Pillai is—"——the extreme hardship to the people of the State caused by the exorbitant increase in the price of food stuffs especially rice, and of other articles of daily necessity such as kerosene, due to the unprecedented shortage of the same in the market"

Then there is the motion of Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai about "the extension of service of public servants who have attained the age of 55 and the grant of a reasonable monthly dearness allowance to the low paid subordinates in the Public Service of the State drawing a salary of up to Rs. 50 during the period of this perilous war."

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[President.]

The last motion relates to Mr. N. Narayana Kurup. "——the doubt and anxiety created in the minds of the agriculturists of Kuttanad, whether they would get sufficient crude oil and cylinder oil for pumping out water from the paddy fields for the cultivation of 1118.—"

I have already dealt with that.

These are the motions of adjournment I have received. I am leaving it to the honourable members to decide whether they would move these motions in which case I will call upon each member and follow the ordinary procedure. But I would advice them to consider whether they could not draw special attention to these matters during the general discussion of the budget. I will give precedence to those members who have been impelled by a sense of urgency to bring forward these adjournment motions. I am entirely in the hands of the House. Those honourable members who wish to move.....

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: In view of the assurance given by the Chair I do not propose to move the motion standing against my name.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, with regard to my adjournment motion regarding war allowance I have not been given an answer. I am in a dilemma whether I should move it or not.

PRESIDENT: What does the honourable member say?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, the honourable member says that the President has not made any reference to his adjournment motion regarding war allowance.

PRESIDENT: All that I can say is that Government have given a dearness allowance to Government servants drawing less than Rs. 15 and that alone costs us about 2 lakhs of rupees. I find that this was exactly what was done in the neighbouring places. It may be pointed out in this connection that dearness allowance at the rate of rupee one was sanctioned by the Governments of Madras, Mysore and Cochin initially. In Madras the allowance has been sanctioned to all employees whose salary does not exceed Rs. 30 per mensem. In Mysore and Cochin the allowance is being granted to all Government servants drawing a salary of Rs. 25 and less per mensem. In Madras the rate of the allowance has been raised to Rs. 1-8-0 from June 1942 and in Cochin to Rs. 2 from 1-11-1117.

Now, what I find on going into the matter is this. The lowest pay of clerks in Mysore and Cochin is Rs. 25 and those of peons Rs. 11 and 10 respectively. The lowest pay of clerks in this State is Rs. 20 and that of peons is Rs. 9. The difference is probably due to the cost of living, No doubt, the costs of living in Mysore and Cochin are higher than in Travancore. But Government are not pledged or wedded to thir allowance. If we find that people drawing less than Rs. 25 are really in distress Government will go into the matter and deal with it if real distress or scarcity exist, bearing in mind that that the cost involved would be 4 to 4½ lakhs instead of 2 lakhs. It is true that we have a surplus budget. But what may happen during the next three or six months we do not know for certain. Therefore I do

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not want to give a pledge or undertaking. The world is changing very fast.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP : In view of the answer given by the Chair I do not wish to move my motion.

The adjournment motions were not pressed.

PRESIDENT ; I am asking the Secretary to remind me of the names of these members during the general discussion of the Budget.

MESSAGE.

SECRETARY : Sir, I beg to report that the following Message has been received from the Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council :—

" Under Rule 42 of the Travancore Legislative Rules I am directed to inform you that the Sri Chitra State Council at its meeting held on the 27th March 1942 agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Sri Mulam Assembly on the 24th March 1942 : —

(1) The Travancore Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill.
(2) The Travancore Merchandise Marks Bill.

BILLS ASSENTED TO BY HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA.

SECRETARY : Sir, I beg to report that the following Bills have received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja :—

(1) The Travancore Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill.
(2) The Travancore Merchandise Marks Bill.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

PRESIDENT : Under Rule 3 (2) of the Legislative Rules, I nominate Sadasyatilaka T. K. Velu Pillai and Mr. J. E. A. Pereira on the Panel of Chairmen for this session of the Assembly,

ELECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT : The House will elect two members each to the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee for 1118. The elections will take place on Thursday, the 30th July 1942. They will be held as usual after the business of the House for the day is over under the Chairmanship of the Deputy President or one of the Panel of Chairmen. The elections will be conducted on the basis of the ordinary system of voting by ballot.

MOTIONS FELICITATING THE DEWAN-PRESIDENT.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : Sir, I beg to move the following motion :—

" This Assembly begs to convey to Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C. S. I., K C. I. E., LL D, its sincere congra ulat ons on his appointment as a Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. The Assembly also reiterates its belief that the services of Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar are indispensable for a few more years for completing the industrialisation of the State inaugurated by him and offers its best wishes for the successful discharging of the onerous duties of the Executive Council Membership and hopes that Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar will resume the Dewanship of the State without loss of much time. "

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